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What is Claimed is:

1. A medical apparatus comprising:

an outer surface having a side opening, the side opening for receiving tissue therethrough;

a cutter adapted to receive RF energy for cutting tissue, the cutter supported inward of the side opening and adapted to traverse a length of the side opening for cutting tissue extending through the side opening; and

a tissue stop disposed inward of the cutter;

wherein the tissue stop comprises a pole of an RF circuit.

2. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop comprises a ground of an RF circuit.

3. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop is deformable.

4. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop comprises at least one vacuum opening therethrough.

5. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the medical apparatus comprises a passageway sized to receive an endoscope.

6. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the medical apparatus comprises a cutting element supported in sliding engagement with slots disposed on opposite sides of the side opening.

7. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop is formed of an electrically conductive material.

8. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop has a conductive material applied to one surface thereof.

9. A medical apparatus comprising:

an outer surface having a side opening, the side opening for receiving tissue therethrough;

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a cutter adapted to receive RF energy for cutting tissue received through the side opening; and

a tissue stop disposed inward of the cutter, wherein the tissue stop comprises a portion of an RF circuit.

10. The medical apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the medical apparatus comprises a passageway sized to receive an endoscope.

11. The medical apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the medial apparatus comprises a distal end opening.

12. The medical apparatus of Claim 10 comprising a flexible sleeve for receiving an endoscope therein.

13. A method of cutting tissue comprising the steps of:  
positioning an RF cutting device in the gastro-intestinal tract of a patient;  
positioning a tissue stop in the gastro-intestinal tract;  
positioning a tissue mass against the tissue stop;  
energizing the RF cutting device;  
electrically grounding the tissue stop with respect to the RF cutting device; and  
cutting a tissue sample from the tissue mass.

14. The method of Claim 14 wherein the step of positioning a tissue mass against the tissue stop comprises providing a source of vacuum, and drawing the tissue mass against the tissue stop.

15. The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of drawing the tissue mass comprises drawing the tissue mass through an opening having length and width.

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*16,17.* The method of Claim 16 wherein the step of cutting the tissue sample comprises drawing an energized portion of the cutting device across a length of the opening.

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